

Course Evaluation Project

Background Report:

Comparing Sample Course Evaluation Questions with Existing Question Sets used by Waterloo Faculties

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Course Evaluation Project

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Course Evaluation Project

PROPOSED QUESTION MODEL

- Cascaded Questions:
 - Core institution-wide questions
 - Optional additional questions chosen by Faculty, Department and/or Instructors
- Evaluation across three dimensions of effective teaching (4 questions each plus one cross-dimensional):
 - Course Design
 - Course Delivery
 - Learning Experience
- Core question break-down:
 - Likert: up to 10
 - Open: up to 3 (grey shading)
- Optional additional questions
 - Maximum 6 from fixed database
 - Chosen by Faculty, Department or Instructor (can include existing Faculty questions)

DRAFT QUESTIONS

Course Design Dimension	Course Delivery Dimension	Learning Experience Dimension
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I knew what I was expected to learn in this course • The graded work assessed what I was expected to learn • The course activities prepared me for the graded work • The coursework demands were...(different Likert scale) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time • The instructor was a clear communicator • The instructor created a supportive environment that helped me learn • The instructor stimulated my interest in this course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most important thing I learned in this course was • Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor • Overall, the quality of my learning experience in this course was excellent • What helped me to learn in this course?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes, if any, would I suggest for this course? 		

NUMBER AND FORMAT COMPARISON OF DRAFT QUESTIONS WITH CURRENT FACULTY QUESTIONS

Total Questions: 19 (proposed) vs. 17 to 23 (current)

	PROPOSED	AHS	ARTS	ENG	ENV	MATH	SCI	CEL
Likert	10	10	10	18	17	15	15	13
Open	3	3	3	2	3	6	2	3
Other								2
Optional	6	5	10		3	1		
Total	19	18	23	20	23	22	17	18

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CONTENT COMPARISON OF DRAFT QUESTIONS TO CURRENT FACULTY QUESTIONS

Notes:

- ✓ = Relevant/related concept being evaluated
- Grey shading = open question

PROPOSED	AHS	ARTS	ENG	ENV	MATH	SCI	CEL
I knew what I was expected to learn in this course							✓
The graded work assessed what I was expected to learn			✓			✓	✓
The course activities prepared me for the graded work			✓		✓	✓	✓
The coursework demands were... (different Likert scale)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time							
The instructor was a clear communicator	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The instructor created a supportive environment that helped me learn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The instructor stimulated my interest in this course	✓	✓			✓		
Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor				✓			✓
Overall, the quality of my learning experience in this course was excellent						✓	
The most important thing I learned in this course was							
What helped me to learn in this course?							
What changes, if any, would I suggest for this course?			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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FACULTY QUESTIONS JUDGED TO BE RELEVANT/ RELATED TO PROPOSED QUESTIONS

Notes: Underlined text = Open question

Bold text = Relevant feature of question

- I knew what I was expected to learn in this course:
 - CEL: Expectations for learning were clearly communicated
- The graded work assessed what I was expected to learn:
 - ENG: How well did the tests reflect the course material?
 - SCI: The mid-term tests were a fair test of the material covered?
 - CEL: The **assignments**, activities, and content helped me achieve the stated learning objectives
- The course activities prepared me for the graded work:
 - ENG: To what extent did the assignments contribute to your better understanding of the concepts?
 - MATH: Was the assigned work (assignments, projects, etc.) helpful in learning the course content?
 - SCI: How useful are the labs in promoting fuller understanding of the subject?
 - CEL: The assignments, **activities, and content** helped me achieve the stated learning objectives
- The coursework demands were...:
 - AHS: Rate this course with respect to: workload demands upon the student
 - ARTS: Rate this course with respect to: workload demands upon the student
 - ENG: Rate the workload required to complete this course
 - ENV: The amount of work required for this course compared with others I have taken at the same credit weighting and level
 - MATH: Was the amount of assigned work required for the course appropriate?
 - MATH: On average, how many hours per week did you spend on this course outside of lectures?
 - SCI: Rate the load of assigned work in this course compared to others you are now taking
 - CEL: On average, I spent x hours per week working on this course (options provided)
- The instructor was a clear communicator:
 - AHS: Rate this course with respect to: presentation of course/lab material
 - ARTS: Rate this course with respect to: presentation of course material
 - ENG: Rate your professor's oral presentation in terms of audibility, articulation, and your ability to understand his/her English
 - ENG: Rate your professor's visual presentation. Consider organization, legibility and effective use of materials (Blackboard, electronic media, etc)
 - ENG: How would you rate the professor's response to questions?
 - ENG: At what level were the professor's explanations usually directed, in relation to your general level of understanding?
 - ENV: Assess specific aspects of the instructor's work: communication skills
 - MATH: At what level were the instructor's explanations aimed?
 - MATH: Evaluate the instructor's treatment of students' questions

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- MATH: Evaluate the effectiveness of the instructor's visual presentation (blackboard, overheads, etc.)
- MATH: Evaluate the effectiveness of the instructor's oral presentation
- SCI: Rate your professor's oral presentation in terms of audibility, articulation and your ability to understand him or her
- SCI: Rate your professor's visual presentations
- SCI: Rate your professor's responses to questions
- CEL: The instructor's explanations were clear and understandable

- The instructor created a supportive environment that helped me learn:
 - AHS: Rate this course with respect to: instructor's attitude toward and interest in students
 - ARTS: Rate this course with respect to: instructor's attitude toward and interest in students
 - ENG: Describe the availability and approachability of your professor outside of class compared to other courses you've taken at university
 - ENG: What was your impression of your professor's attitude towards teaching the course?
 - ENG: Describe your professor class relationship
 - ENV: Assess specific aspects of the instructor's work: commitment/enthusiasm about the course
 - ENV: Assess specific aspects of the instructor's work: availability for consultation during regularly scheduled times
 - ENV: Assess specific aspects of the instructor's work: helpfulness toward students
 - MATH: Was the class atmosphere affected either positively or negatively by attitudes of the instructor or students (e.g., with respect to gender, race, ability, appearance).
 - SCI: Rate your professor's attitude toward teaching in this course
 - CEL: The general climate in the course was good for learning
 - CEL: The instructor related to students in a way that promoted mutual respect
 - CEL: The instructor was helpful to students seeking guidance

- The instructor stimulated my interest in this course:
 - AHS: Rate this course with respect to: ability to maintain student interest
 - ARTS: Rate this course with respect to: ability to maintain student interest
 - MATH: Did you find the course interesting?

- Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor:
 - ENV: Assess effectiveness of the course/studio: the amount you learned
 - CEL: Overall, I learned a great deal from the instructor

- Overall, the quality of my learning experience in this course was excellent:
 - SCI: Relative to the other courses I have taken this term, I have found the educational and/or professional value of this course...

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- What changes, if any, would I suggest for this course?
 - ENG: Your professor would also like to know what specific things you believe might be done to improve his or her teaching of this course
 - ENV: Would you like to see any changes to the course?
 - MATH: Please make constructive comments about anything in the instructor’s technique or style that could, in your opinion, be improved
 - SCI: Your professor would like to know what specific things you believe might be done to improve the teaching of this course
 - CEL: The instructor would like to know what specific things you believe might be done to improve the teaching of this course

NUMBER OF FACULTY QUESTIONS REFLECTED IN THE PROPOSED CORE QUESTIONS

	AHS	ARTS	ENG	ENV	MATH	SCI	CEL
Likert	4/10	4/10	10/18	6/17	8/15	8/15	7/13
Open	0/3	0/3	1/2	1/3	2/6	1/2	1/3
Other							0/2
Total	4/13	4/13	11/20	7/20	10/21	9/17	8/18

FACULTY QUESTIONS NOT REFLECTED IN THE PROPOSED CORE QUESTIONS

AHS (6 LIKERT AND 3 OPEN):

- Rate this course with respect to: course/lab organization and planning
- Rate this course with respect to: objectivity and fairness in discussions and grading
- Rate this course with respect to: value of readings, assigned work, lab reports
- Rate this course with respect to: availability outside of class
- Rate this course with respect to: overall evaluation of the instructor
- Rate this course with respect to: overall evaluation of the course/lab
- In my opinion the strengths of this course/lab are...
- In my opinion the weaknesses of this course/lab are...
- My view of this course/lab is...

ARTS (6 LIKERT AND 3 OPEN):

- Rate this course with respect to: course organization and planning
- Rate this course with respect to: objectivity and fairness in discussions and grading
- Rate this course with respect to: value of readings and assigned work
- Rate this course with respect to: availability outside of class
- Rate this course with respect to: overall evaluation of the instructor
- Rate this course with respect to: overall evaluation of the course
- In my opinion the strengths of this course are...
- In my opinion the weaknesses of this course are...
- My view of this course/lab is...

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ENG (8 LIKERT AND 1 OPEN):

- Rate your professor's presentation of lectures in terms of organization and clarity
- Were students encouraged by the professor to think and reason logically and objectively on their own, about the subject matter?
- What is your overall appraisal of the quality of teaching in this course?
- Rate the difficulty of the concepts covered by this course
- How useful was the textbook (or reading materials) for understanding of the concepts?
- How valuable do you feel tutorials are (or would be) in the instruction of this course?
- What is your overall appraisal of this course?
- How many classes did you attend?
- Your professor would like to know if there is something you believe he or she has done especially well in his or her teaching of this course

ENV (11 LIKERT AND 2 OPEN):

- My overall evaluation of the course is...
- My overall evaluation of the instructor is...
- Assess effectiveness of specific aspects of the course/studio: course outline or syllabus
- Assess effectiveness of specific aspects of the course/studio: organization
- Assess effectiveness of specific aspects of the course/studio: readings and reference material
- Assess effectiveness of specific aspects of the course/studio: assignments
- Assess effectiveness of specific aspects of the course/studio: fairness of grading
- Assess specific aspects of the instructor's work: knowledge of subject
- Assess specific aspects of the instructor's work: effectiveness of teaching techniques
- Assess specific aspects of the instructor's work: professional conduct towards students
- How satisfactory were the facilities (classroom, equipment, etc)?
- Please elaborate on your responses to any of the questions on the other side
- What did you like best about this course?

MATH (7 LIKERT AND 4 OPEN):

- Evaluate the organization and coherence of the lectures
- Evaluate the overall effectiveness of the instructor as a teacher
- What proportion of lectures did you attend in this course?
- Were the printed notes (if any) helpful in learning the course content?
- Was the required textbook (if any) helpful in learning the course content?
- Did the course introduce an appropriate amount of new material?
- Was the instructor available for help outside class?
- Please mention anything that you feel the instructor has done well in this course
- What were the strong points of the course?
- What were the weak points of the course?
- Any other comments, e.g., class size, suitability of room, noise level, etc.

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SCI (7 LIKERT AND 1 OPEN):

- Rate the relative difficulty of this course compared to the others you are now taking
- Rate the helpfulness of the text (or other assigned reading material) relative to those in other courses you are now taking
- Rate the overall quality of teaching in this course
- Describe the availability of your professor outside of class
- How useful are the labs in giving experience in handling and interpreting data?
- How useful are the labs in developing an appreciation of experimental methods?
- The quality of instruction in the laboratory was...
- Your professor would like to know if there are some things you believe were done especially well in the teaching of this course

CEL (5 LIKERT; 2 OTHER AND 2 OPEN):

- Course materials were presented in an organized manner
- The assignments contributed to my learning
- Feedback on course assignments contributed to my learning
- Technology was used effectively for learning in the course
- Overall, I learned a great deal from this course
- What grade do you expect in this course? [OTHER]
- This course is: required; an elective [OTHER]
- In your opinion the strengths of this course are...
- In your opinion the weaknesses of this course are

CORE COMPARISON OF DRAFT QUESTIONS WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY QUESTIONS

	PROPOSED	TORONTO	McGILL
Likert	10	6	4
Open	3	2	≥1
Optional	6	12	21
Total	19	20	25

Notes:

- Waterloo: Draft databank (> 120 questions) includes all existing Faculty questions
- Toronto: Optional number depends on Faculty/department (>180 questions in databank)
- McGill: Faculty can select up to 18 questions (at least one question must be open); if fewer than 18 selected, department can select questions (up to the 18 maximum). Instructors can add up to 3 questions. Optional question databank contains >60 items.