

Student Evaluation of Teaching, Spring 2020

David Penn, PSYC 101-002 GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

Due to the global pandemic, all spring 2020 courses shifted to remote instruction midway through the semester. As a result, these student evaluations of teaching are for the instructor only. It is entirely up to the course instructor if these results and comments are shared during future evaluation or promotion settings.

Raters	Students									
Responded	99									
Invited	236									
Response Ratio	41.9%									
	Mean	Median	SD	N	%(1)	%(2)	%(3)	%(4)	%(5)	
1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	4.47	5.00	0.66	99	0.0%	1.0%	6.1%	37.4%	55.6%	
2. The instructor treated all students with respect.	4.77	5.00	0.43	98	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23.5%	76.5%	
3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	4.79	5.00	0.50	98	0.0%	1.0%	1.0%	16.3%	81.6%	
4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	4.66	5.00	0.59	99	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%	22.2%	71.7%	
5. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.	4.37	5.00	0.80	99	1.0%	1.0%	11.1%	33.3%	53.5%	
6. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	4.39	4.00	0.72	97	1.0%	1.0%	4.1%	45.4%	48.5%	
7. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.32	4.00	0.87	99	2.0%	3.0%	5.1%	40.4%	49.5%	
8. Overall, this course was excellent.	4.37	5.00	0.76	99	0.0%	3.0%	8.1%	37.4%	51.5%	
9. If my instructor had more time to prepare, I think this course would have the potential to be an excellent online course.	4.04	4.00	0.87	99	1.0%	3.0%	20.2%	42.4%	33.3%	

Open-Ended Responses

1. In what ways did your instructor try to make learning possible for you during the spring 2020 semester?

Comments

He uploaded lectures online as VoiceThread presentations. He also held additional office hours.

He's just so awesome. He would provide real life examples for concepts in psychology that helped me better learn and understand the information.

He was great at communicating to his students, provided great video examples, and gave us review sheets to help prepare for exams.

Making classes on voice thread made it easy for us to follow along with the lecture and go at our own pace.

Dr. Penn is probably my favorite professor I've had at UNC. During class, he always made sure to repeat important definitions or key ideas so that we had enough time to write them down. He seemed to genuinely care about everyone's well being during class. His teaching assistants were also phenomenal and were always accessible to answer questions about exam questions or content questions. Dr. Penn would pull in youtube videos with prevalent examples that made it easier to connect ideas to a real-life example. He easily relayed the information and made it very easy to follow along in class. I never felt stressed out or overwhelmed.

Comments

We looked at voice thread messages and had office hours with the TAs on zoom

He provided engaging lectures without the stress of a large amount of workload.

David Penn was awesome! By far my favorite professor at UNC. He ran the class more efficiently than any other teacher I had this semester and he manages to adapt the best online class I've taken very quickly.

Even though the lectures were long, he made sure to cram a lot of material in one lecture.

I absolutely loved Dr. Penn he was wonderful, very friendly, and approachable.

I loved him! He was very helpful and would always keep us in the loop. His lectures were entertaining and I thought that they were always very informative and interesting.

David Penn provided office hours and lots of information about content.

He kept us up to date with everything going on in class and tried to remain hand in hand with the original syllabus.

The voicethreads were great but I did miss having zoom meetings and see everyone.

During the first half of the semester, Professor Penn was very responsive and made lectures fun and interesting. The IAs were very helpful as well and were always willing to help. The second half of the semester, the instruction team increased their availability and made lecture recordings easy to find and listen to. I appreciate their dedication throughout the semester.

He related with students, and lectures were interactive.

Used VoiceThreads for lectures and Piazza for asking questions

He was very interactive and fun

He provided very detailed lectures interspersed with interesting video clips, maintained regular contact with us by email and weekly inspirational zoom messages, held regular office hours, and made himself (and the TA's) available for whatever we needed.

Absolutely wonderful professor. He understood the students' needs and kept us engaged in the course. Very intelligent, very funny man. One of the best professors I have ever had.

Professor Penn was very understanding and helpful during the transition to online courses. He responded to emails almost immediately and was overall a wonderful professor.

He was very accommodating and helpful, including videos to explain concepts and voice lectures were great!

Usually always aided psychological terms with examples, made it easier for students to conceptualize and remember important terms.

Dr. Penn encouraged class participation, which really helped my learning! Thinking through the concepts that we were learning and talking about everyday examples of them helped my understanding of the class content. Dr. Penn also explains things very well which helped my learning a lot!

He was very kind and humorous. He made learning concepts very easy and very communicative.

Dr. Penn is the man.

Vociethread

Dr. Penn always used great examples and videos in class to get students to better understand the material. I love that he repeats definitions/necessary information for exams because some people may not hear everything said in lecture if it's only said once. He posted powerpoints but they weren't fully descriptive which encouraged me to attend lecture.

I really enjoyed lectures in this class, I thought they were engaging, thorough, and informative

He was always explaining material thoroughly and really wanted to make sure that everyone understood the main concepts at the end of each class. The writing assignments were helpful for thinking about the topics on a deeper level.

Excellent professor! The pacing of the class was probably the best I've ever experienced in my life.

Great class

He made it very possible.

Dr. Penn was a great professor. He tried to connect with students even in a 200 person lecture hall. He made the information fun with jokes, examples, and videos. He was open to

Comments

questions and tangents. He also included the grad students in his lectures which I appreciated. He tried to relate to the students. Even though it was such a large class, I didn't feel awkward asking questions or reaching out for help.

Constant contact and reaching out.

Through video lectures, including TA lectures that were separate and in detail about specific subjects. Also through textbook readings and office hours, as well as a few short papers. One thing that was helpful were the videos that we were told to watch during the lectures, because it was very visual and helpful to learning the material.

Dr. Penn made it easy for students to ask questions and express opinions, even in a very large class.

Professor Penn made power points and class materials available for our review at any time during the week. He also was thorough in his teaching and made sure to explain topics in depth.

Office hours were a great way to engage in one on one interaction outside the lecture setting.

Asked many questions in class to his students

Dr. Penn is incredibly knowledgeable. Not only that, but he knows how to 'dumb it down' in a sense. He is an incredible lecturer. I didn't really realize this until one of the graduate students gave a VoiceThread lecture. It was not bad, but I was pretty lost and effective notes were harder to take. Great professor and great person!

Dr. Penn tried to make learning possible through in class lectures and activities and building connections between source material and real world examples.

Ummm they always made sure that they had office hours to help us with anything and Tate was really helpful too! But overall no matter how hard I studied I could not get to where I wanted to be in this course

Dr. Penn recorded all the lectures, which make the information accessible to everyone at anytime.

Dr. Penn did a good job of finding relevant videos to enhance my understanding of psychological topics.

He provided many office hours, videos, and slides to help make learning possible.

He obviously worked really hard to make sure that our lectures were still beneficial even though they lacked face-to-face contact. He also was very kind and sent out weekly messages that were helpful in keeping me organized and made me smile.

During class, lectures were engaging and when things went online Professor Penn did a good job. He sent out weekly messages along with lectures, extra credit, and our assignments were very helpful.

Dr. Penn always uses such intriguing examples of the different components of psychology. I think these examples made the class so interesting and one to always look forward to!

Professor Penn did an outstanding job at adapting to the adversity that the university encountered. He made weekly powerpoint lectures that were engaging and understandable that undoubtedly progressed the learning within our Psyc101 class. We had links to videos and even guest lectures that made the class similar to the way it was before online learning. Professor Penn was a very reasonable instructor who made learning, for me at least, enjoyable and interesting.

He was a great lecturer and offered fun activities and supplemental videos with the subject matter.

He was a good professor because of his ability to make the class interesting and fun by showing us videos and talking to us about his work, etc..

he continued his lectures just like in class online including all the details we needed. his voice threads were easily accessible and thorough

Dr. Penn uploaded his lectures to VoiceThread for us to watch on our own time. They were engaging and worked well!

I really thought the lectures were always engaging, especially the fun videos that were shown. Dr. Penn was always well-prepared for lectures and I appreciated his enthusiasm for the course.

Dr. Penn was a great teacher for Psych 101. He always thoroughly explained the material, provided lots of examples, and tried to make it fun if the content wasn't super exciting. Dr. Penn always kept us in the know about what was going on with the university and wanted to ensure both our learning and our safety. Dr. Penn also goes above and beyond when he sees psychology in use today and will send us bits about it. It's nice to see the real world application when some of the material is dense, or I didn't understand it the first time. He was always available for office hours and encouraged students to get involved.

He encouraged participation, had us watch lots of videos that related to the subject matter, and gave informative lectures.

Comments

He provided lectures and powerpoint presentations for the students to look over again. In addition he provided a very laid back atmosphere that made him as well as his TA's seem more approachable with questions regarding content.

Professor Penn was an incredibly kind and respectful instructor. However, I question the material that was taught. Rather than being tested on understanding aspects of psychology, I found the tests to be heavily focused on rewarding attendance. I believe attendance should be rewarded to an extent but I do not agree with 20% of the test questions rewarding attendance. Rather than focusing on learning the actual physiology of the brain, I spent my time reviewing notes I had made about videos that were shown. And most videos were short and shown once so the notes were not very detailed and I could not make them detailed later since the videos links were not shared with the class. Regardless of my frustrations with the class, to answer the question, Instructor Penn used powerpoints, videos, and polls to teach the material that he believed should be tested on. Although, I did appreciate the study guides that were uploaded on Sakai. I still did poorly on tests but I would have done worse without them.

Dr. Penn made the best of a poor situation. He cares so much about the material, and the success of his students when faced with adversity. He is kind, knowledgeable, and passionate. He made the material quite interesting by applying relatable scenarios, both in person and online.

Lots of time for office hours, helpful lectures, relatively easy transition to online courses

During his in person lectures, while giving the definition of something, he would go slow and repeat it several times in order to allow for students to get down the material in their notes. He also offered office hours as well as having office hours with the TAs. He provided us with study guides for exams so we would know what to be studying to do well.

Dr. Penn was diligent about uploading voice thread powerpoints and giving us study guides for our online exams. He made himself and the TA's for our class available through zoom office hours.

He was very smart and informative

Dr. Penn is an incredible Psychology 101 professor! He is very knowledgeable about the subject (obviously), but implemented different ways to share his knowledge with us students. He used many different learning approaches, from in-class demonstrations to videos, that allowed a concept to be brought to life. I really enjoyed this class!!

Very clearly explained concepts, well structured lectures and assignments

He's ok. Definitely not the brightest bulb but he has a kind soul and that's what truly matters.

Voicethread lectures helped cover the rest of the semester's content.

His lectures were interactive and interesting. Although I did not participate since I am afraid of speaking in large crowds, it was interesting to see what other students had to say about the material during class. The videos he showed about topics made the class more interesting. My only complaint is that Dr. Penn's voice is very soothing and the lecture room was very dim, and sometimes I did almost catch myself falling asleep.

He made himself very available and you could tell he prepared his lectures very well. He was eager to show us real world examples to help us understand things better.

I loved taking Psychology with Professor Penn. His class was very interesting and fun. I thought Professor Penn created a class that was the perfect balance between challenging and manageable. He was so friendly and inviting, and he made the coursework come to life. I really loved his class!

Weekly office hours and chances to talk in class

He was available and understanding

2. How would you describe your learning experience after the transition from face-to-face instruction to remote instruction? What did you find most helpful to your remote learning experience? In what ways, if at all, did aspects of your learning change?

Comments

It was diminished slightly by the loss of class participation opportunities, but the ability to go back and rewatch lectures to better grasp the material was extremely helpful to me.

It was basically the same. I thought he went through and explained his PowerPoints well during our online classes

This transition kind of sucked. He used powerpoints and maintained his teaching style, but it still isn't the same as face to face and there was no longer participation from any of the students.

In a sense, instruction was more streamlined with the use of VoiceThread. It also allowed me to go at my own pace and play back important information that I might not have caught during my first listen. However, being on my laptop, I was more prone to being distracted.

Comments

I felt that the class was still similar to the in-person lecture and I really enjoyed the voice thread lectures/YouTube videos. Having piazza to ask questions was different than in class but I felt that it was still a great online platform to get our questions answered.

It was helpful that they offered office hours and other resources to help us learn.

Dr. Penn was extremely prepared to record his lectures over Voice Thread, which was pretty much exactly like his in-person lectures. There was not a big difference in turning to online class because the lectures were so well prepared. He communicated regularly after turning to remote learning. His class was a very easy transition.

It was worse personally cause I couldn't focus as much and it wasn't as entertaining. It was hard to maintain focus in order to get better.

It was the same. I still was engaged with the lectures.

The remote instruction was absolutely fantastic. I'm a transfer student at UNC, and at my previous school I exclusively took online classes (that's more than two years of remote experience) and I can honestly say that this was one of the best remote classes I've taken. The lectures were precise, no rambling, and the TA's did well too. My only critique is that we had to go outside of the voice thread lecture in order to view any videos that accompanied the slides.

It was excellent.

I would have preferred to have live zoom meeting as opposed to voice thread, I think that would have made the students feel more accountable and kept them on schedule.

I think it was probably the best transition I had out of all of my classes. His lectures, while they were recorded on Voicethread were still entertaining, and I enjoyed the lectures from the TA's as well. I really liked how we created a Piazza forum, I feel like that was a tool that is really helpful, whether we are online or in person. Overall, I think it was a great and simple transition.

Lectures for remote instruction were extremely long and draining. The writing assignments along with the lectures made this class very stressful, especially during Coronavirus.

It was more of a challenge. His emails and zoom videos helped a lot. I learned better study methods and used the internet to my advantage.

There was a lot of participation and very interactive learning face-to-face that was enjoyable and interesting and then suddenly just lecture watching that made the course somewhat less interesting.

I would say that my learning experience decreased as a result of the switch to remote learning because I believe that face-to-face instruction is much more effective. Being able to have the lectures available to me at all times was very helpful, rather than doing a cumulative Zoom meeting because it took some of the stress off of my switch to remote learning.

I still enjoyed the remote instruction. I liked the idea of being able to assess the videos and rewind when needed; made things much easier.

I found it helpful that we were able to listen to the lectures on our own time and go through them at our own pace.

It was great, just a little long

My learning required more self-motivation, since it was tempting to put off watching the lectures until the last minute. However, Dr. Penn's exams were based primarily on his lectures, so this provided helpful impetus for keeping up with the work. I also found it helpful that I could re-watch the lectures while studying for his exams.

Dr. Penn did a fantastic job switching to online learning. He recorded his lectures as he would give in class. He made sure to keep it as similar to face-to-face instruction as he could. He kept us informed and up to date. He made the transition to remote instruction better and easier than any of my other professors. This man is an excellent professor and I am so thankful to have had him for Psych 101.

I thought that the transition from face-to-face instruction would be much worse than it was. Professor Penn made the transition easier and was very helpful. I learned a great deal even though the class was online. He provided lectures that were not live so that it was accessible to everyone at all times of the day, which was super helpful.

TAs were always available for help, and it only changed for in class quizzes.

I think I found that we didn't have a scheduled class time the most helpful. I could work at my own pace with the voice recorded lectures. It was essentially very similar content compared to before the transition to online learning, the students were just expected to pace themselves.

I loved the voice thread lectures Mr. Penn recorded as a substitute for zoom class sessions. They were all straightforward and engaging, and especially helpful for review in upcoming exams

The participation aspects of the class changed a lot going from face-to-face instruction to online learning. I really miss being able to think through the concepts in class, but Dr. Penn did a great job explaining the lectures online and providing us with the materials we needed to understand. I found including the video links for the lectures most helpful!

Comments

Excellent transition.

The VT lectures were helpful. They did take a lot of time to load but could've just been my computer. Overall Dr. Penn is the man—great teacher.

Having recorded video

The online lectures were still just as informational and interesting online as they were in—person. All of our assignments were online as well so there wasn't as much necessary adjustment there. Dr. Penn seemed very concerned about everyone's wellbeing during this time which I think everyone can appreciate. I think the most helpful thing was having the lectures accessible whenever people could attend them. He and the TAs were also very available remotely, even when we were taking exams they were on Zoom to answer questions.

Things did not change tremendously after we moved to an online format. I appreciate Dr. Penn's flexibility in changing the syllabus and how all lectures were always available by the time we would have met in person. This helped me to stay on top of my work and not fall behind, but also work at my own pace

It wasn't bad, I didn't really like VoiceThread because it was difficult to listen to the lectures continuously instead of having to manually switch slides. That was more of a personal preference, though. Overall I thought it was still easy to learn the material and it was just as interesting as I imagine it would've been in our normal classroom setting.

Great Class

It was pretty much the same. I liked remote learning because it allowed me to do work on my time. Learning did not change all that much for me.

I actually think the Voicethreads lectured conveyed the information effectively. I did find our last exam to be significantly more difficult than our other exams. It asked for particular statistics that were not similar to what had been asked on exams in the past. I also missed the opportunity to build a connection with Dr. Penn and learn from some of the other students questions.

Seamless.

It was definitely different since these were recorded video lectures and not live lectures, so the class wasn't able to participate in the lecture/interact with the professor or one another, which was definitely different. The most helpful things were the videos that were assigned with the lecture and helped me to see the material in a real life context. The only thing that changed was not being able to ask/answer questions in class like we normally are able to.

I found it helpful that Dr. Penn made the recorded lectures available for students to watch in accordance with their own schedule, rather than having meetings at specified times. It became impossible to ask questions during lectures but a platform was used to allow students to get their questions answered by other students and TAs.

I would say it stayed fairly constant. Professor Penn continued to explain things in great depth, which helped understanding the information. The only thing that changed was that going through the materials was longer because I could pause and re—watch sections to take notes.

I didn't like the format of online lectures. I found it hard to engage in the material and stay focused while taking notes. I understand it was difficult to change teaching styles though.

It was fine. challenging and overwhelming because there were a lot of materials that were uploaded at once

I think it was a very good choice to pre—record the lectures instead of having zoom calls. I don't think having it live would have been very helpful. Also this way, I could screenshot graphs and images I wanted in my notes. Overall, it was probably easier to take notes, but I understand some of the effects of the class was lost as it was online.

My learning experience after the transition was small, I found the flexibility of the recorded lectures most helpful, but no real aspects of my learning changed.

I honestly appreciated their restructuring of our course to accommodate our class buttt the online style learning made me fall out learning and understanding with this course material because I have never taken any online courses before and I feel like I was just thrown into the pit with this new learning style.

I appreciated that Dr. Penn did voice thread instead of zoom. Having online classes being more flexible helped me a lot during this semester.

I think it went very well online. I was able to pause and take notes or go back in the lecture video if I did not understand something which was helpful.

I think it maybe would have been more helpful to do pre—recorded videos on zoom rather than using voicethread because voicethread can be frustrating and take forever to load sometimes. But that being said, the lectures were still really good, and I learned a lot.

I think it is harder to self motivate myself for online learning at home as opposed to at school. I think it is helpful to have zoom classes to have a required time to meet. I think it was harder to stay on track and it felt like a lot more work for all of my classes.

I did not enjoy the transition to remote learning with this class because going through each Powerpoint slide and taking notes took a much longer time than an actual lecture— it

Comments

was incredibly dull too, Dr. Penn did the best he could– I just do not think this class is as captivating online.

Remote instruction for this class was very efficient. We had powerpoint lectures that were available to watch during students' leisure. I did not use office hours but office hours were frequently available and each of the TAs were eager to help students and address their questions. We honestly covered, I think, more material during remote instruction, but it was both engaging and interesting and I looked forward to watching lectures. Remote instruction was extremely adaptive and worked well for this class!

The voicethread method worked well for me. Interactions went down but that was okay as there were plenty of opportunities to attend office hours.

I really liked that he used voicethread to post his lectures so we could pause and take notes, that's one way in which my learning changed I think I was even able to get more from the lectures since I could pause, write it down and think more about it.

I enjoyed the flexibility of the class online but did miss the conversational aspects of the class

The transition was pretty seamless for this course and I found the online lectures very helpful. I missed the interesting in–class discussion but still feel that I learned and gained from the material.

I thought the Voice thread lectures were a good way of transitioning. They were very similar to the face–to–face lectures, and I also liked the weekly Zoom updates. The Piazza account was great for questions too. I would only say that with closed–note exams I think it has the potential to skew the class average if some people do not follow the honor code.

Learning changed when I could go at my own pace for the lectures. I much preferred Dr. Penn's lectures in person because of his lively personality, class participation, and examples. Dr. Penn did a great job at transferring the class to an online setting. Voice Thread was extremely useful and really helped my understanding as we learned new material. It was really great to be able to pause and go back if I didn't quite hear something. This class was by far the best way to adapt to the online setting. The TA's were great as well.

I thought the teacher did his best to provide an efficient learning experience through powerpoint presentations that also featured commentary from the professor. I found the access to lectures for rewatching very helpful for learning in a remote situation,

I enjoyed my learning experience more after the transition to remote instruction. I appreciated that I could watch the videos multiple times and write down every detail from the voice thread lectures during my remote learning experience since I knew a large portion of the test questions would relate to the examples from the lectures, rather than the traditional material one would test for in a psychology course. I genuinely do not mean any disrespect with my evaluation, I found each instructor to be kind and respectful, but I simply disagree with how grading was handled in the class and how tests were formatted.

the transition was difficult, but forced me to better manage my time. many of my professors tried to make my experience more difficult, thinking that the transition to online classes was somehow advantageous to us. Dr. Penn was not one of those professors, rather he tried to help and accommodate students as best as he could. I liked being able to rewind and rewatch his prerecorded lectures when something did not click.

Dr. Penn was still readily available and scheduled regular office hour times, which was very helpful. The Voicethread lectures were also helpful and informative

Because of the nature of the assignments, I think this class did very well transferred to online. Dr. Penn did his best to keep us all in the loop and I really appreciate that.

It was hard to go from face–to–face instruction to remote learning. I definitely learn better in person than online. I liked that the lectures were not live and we could then get up whenever we wanted and listen to them on our own time, that was also had though. I found myself getting behind and not having the motivation to listen to the lectures and take notes. I found it hard to have recorded lectures because Dr. Penn wen through the material a lot faster than we did in class and it was stressful. The lectures were long and became even longer because we had to keep pausing and rewinding the lecture in order to take good notes. He talked really quickly and didn't slow down or pause for important definitions. I overall did not like the way he did lectures for online class. I also think that the last exam and the final should have been open note to accommodate for the transition to online like most professors did.

My notes continued to be the most valuable aspect of this course for me after the transition to online learning. Not much changed as this class has always been lecture–heavy with an emphasis on good notetaking, although it was harder to concentrate on lectures without Dr. Penn pausing for student examples or to answer questions. I had a harder time identifying the key aspects of videos associated with lecture without Dr. Penn aurally describing them, although I watched them all.

It went well

Dr. Penn recorded his lectures on VoiceThread, which was great since I was able to watch the lectures at my own time and pace. The biggest challenge, like my other classes, was definitely remaining focused. I appreciated how Dr. Penn still equipped his students with all the materials necessary to complete the course. He wants to see his students succeed.

Comments

the learning experience probably declined, but I think its not really attributable to the prof and more a result of the online learning situation

TERRIBLE. The voicethread lectures were so confusing and slow and they literally took forever to get through. I have a hard time learning remotely (still getting a 4.0 this semester) and I tried to use the subtitles to help me retain information which did not help. Zoom is better at transcribing meetings so I'm not sure why y'all chose voicethread for lectures.

ALSO: The design of the class during the remote part was confusing. The sakai page is ALL over the place and finding lectures for the final was like going on a treasure hunt. It doesn't take that much effort to just make the Sakai page orderly and neat so that I know what lectures are on which exam.....

My learning experience worsened because of the lack of motivation to keep up with online classes.

I liked that the lectures were pre-recorded so that I could do them on my own times. I missed hearing other students speaking up and talking about things because the online lectures were more boring compared to the in-person lectures. I still learned a lot though

The course didn't necessarily require that much student participation, so it being able to watch the lectures at home was not that much of a shift.

I thought the transition was relatively smooth. The online lectures were informative and interesting. Of course, online classes weren't as fun having lectures in person, but I thought the online transition was as effective as it could have been.

It was really difficult for me. Not having a zoom interaction for the class was not very beneficial as I do well with a conversation. Not just looking at a screen. I couldn't ask questions then and there and I didn't really enjoy the structure of the class in remote instruction

I found the lectures most helpful, especially when we moved to remote learning and we had to do it on our own time.
